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## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership

#### **Governors' STEM Advisory Council Releases Application for Iowa Regional STEM Network Hubs**

**CEDAR FALLS, Iowa** – The Governor's STEM Advisory Council announced today the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) with the intent of creating six regional STEM networks to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and economic development in communities across the state.

"This is an important step forward in the process of providing first-rate STEM opportunities to students all over the state," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, co-chair of the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Advisory Council, with University of Northern Iowa President Ben Allen. "These six regional hubs will be at the center of elevating STEM education and creating a stronger STEM workforce statewide."

The six regional networks, overseen by local STEM managers, will develop an interwoven STEM community within and across regions. The regional networks will include representatives of education, business and industry and local governments, among others. They will focus on their region's STEM challenges and opportunities, and how to best meet them. They will complement and work closely with AEAs, extension and outreach, community colleges, public and private universities, informal science centers, nonprofits, youth agencies, regional companies and others to grow a comprehensive STEM network for the region.

"Iowa possesses some outstanding STEM programs in schools, after-school clubs, summer camps and communities but their reach is limited," said Jeff Weld, executive director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council. "The Council is determined that the best STEM programming should be available to families everywhere in a way that best fits local needs, interests and resources."

The Request for Proposals can be found at [www.iowamathscience.org/HUB](http://www.iowamathscience.org/HUB) and must be submitted by the end of business day on April 6, 2012. A committee appointed by the Governor's STEM Advisory Council will then review all submissions and provide the Governor's STEM Advisory Council Executive Committee its recommendations for the locations of the six hubs. The Executive Committee will be tasked with selecting the locations.

For more information about the Iowa Regional STEM Network Hub RFP or the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, please contact Jeff Weld, executive director, at [imsep@uni.edu](mailto:imsep@uni.edu).

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